



THE

# KNIGHT



LITHUANIANS ARE COMING TO BALTIMORE!

VOL 8 No. 1 Issue 43 The LITHUANIAN Numismatic Association, Frank Passic, EDITOR. June-July 1985

## THE 1940 FIRST LITHUANIAN SOLDIER'S MEDAL REVEALED

### LITHUANIAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION MEETS SATURDAY AUGUST 24 11:00 AM IN BALTIMORE

Our Lithuanian Numismatic Association will hold our annual meeting on Saturday August 24, at 11:00 AM at the Baltimore Convention Center in Baltimore, Maryland, as part of the 94th American Numismatic Association convention which is being held August 20-25. Our tentative room number at the convention center is Room 315.

Special speaker for the event will be Gorden "Andy" Singer of Numismatic Consultants of Beltsville, Maryland, who will give a snort talk on Teutonic Coinage. (remember Tannenberg/Vytautas?) In addition, we have other items lined up for the program.

This is an excellent opportunity for our members in the Maryland area to meet your LNA officials, and participate in a great time together! Bring your Lithuanian numismatic items you have for sale, trade, or exhibit to the meeting, for a "show and tell."

We would also like to extend an invitation to the Lithuanian community in the Washington D.C.-Baltimore areas and learn of the exciting field of Lithuanian Numismatics. Let your Lithuanian friends and relatives in the area know about our meeting!

For further information about the ANA convention, consult the major coin publications. Our LNA meeting is listed on the official ANA program.

We also encourage Lithuanian numismatic exhibits; in the past several years Lithuanian exhibits have won several exhibiting awards at the ANA.

We'll be looking for YOU at the LNA meeting August 24!

By Vincent W. Alones and Henry L. Gaidis



ABOVE: The 1940 Soldier's Medal designed by sculptor Juozas Zikaras (Photo with ribbon on next page).

The First Lithuanian Soldier's Medal [Kariuomenes Pirmunai Medalis] was officially adopted by the Lithuanian government on April 11, 1940, a mere two months before the Soviet invasion of the country. It was designed by Lithuania's noted coin designer and sculptor, Juozas Zikaras (1881-1944) years earlier. Zikaras designed Lithuania's 20th cent. coins.

The medal was authorized to honor those soldiers who twenty years earlier volunteered to join various Lithuanian military units formed within the Russian Czarist army. This award is the very last military decoration issued by the Republic of Lithuania, and its existence has been a mystery to collectors--until now. We are honored to announce its existence for the first time here in The Knight!

The interpretation of the Lithuanian word "pirmunai" can also be rendered to mean: predecessor, forerunner, pioneer, or foremost. These words intertwine with the meaning of this medal's existence and purpose, and should be kept in mind.

The details concerning this medal were printed in the Government News [Vyrausybes Zinios], the official Lithuanian government publication. Due to the June 15, 1940 military invasion of the Republic of Lithuania by the Soviet Union, it is not known if any of these medals were actually awarded to these soldiers.

There are three such medals known to be in existence, to our knowledge. One is in the museum of the manufacturers, Hugenin Freres, in Switzerland. The other two are owned by the authors of this article. A plaster master model/cast is in possession of the Zikaras family, which conforms to the description set forth in the Government News. The only difference between the three known medals and the one prescribed by the Government News regulations occurs in the ribbon col-

Continued next page...



## 2. MEDAL from page 1...

ors, and will be discussed further here.

With the establishment of the Kerensky Provisional Government in Russia, which assumed power after the abdication of Czar Nicholas II, Lithuanians serving in the Russian Army were allowed to form their own units. Lithuanian battalions were located in Vitebsk, Smolensk, Siberia, Kovno (Ukraine), Valke (Estonia), and in Romania. The intent of these Lithuanian soldiers was the formation of a unified Lithuanian Army, with divisions composed of infantry, cavalry, and artillery, to eventually return home and become the nucleus of a national army.

With the Bolshevik/Communist Revolution of 1917, these Lithuanian battalions and divisions were ordered disbanded. It is estimated that over 5,000 Lithuanians joined such units prior to their disbanding order. Though these soldiers never returned intact to Lithuania as divisions, the bulk returned individually and joined in the fighting of the newly forming Lithuanian Army 1917-1919. The Resolution of December 11, 1917, proclaimed the restoration of the Lithuanian State, with its capital at Vilnius. This was followed on February 16, 1918, with the Declaration of Restoration of Independence, by the Council of Lithuania.

The following abbreviated passages are translated from the Government News Number 702, dated May 4, 1940:



First Soldier's Medal, with Ribbon.

(Lietuvos Kariuomenės Kureju Savanorių Medalio), in order of honor [See The Knight Vol. 6 No. 5 February-March 1984 for a description of that medal].

The First Lithuanian Soldier's Medal will be silver, in a round shape with its obverse depicting a Lithuanian maiden holding a broad sword in her right hand. The top part of the circle bears in relief the inscription "Už Lietuvos Laisvę" (For Lithuania's Freedom) and the bottom, "Kariuomenės Pirmūnai" (First Soldiers). The medal's flat surface forms a cross with its first soldiers marching with a Vytis flag. In the four corners of the medal are depicted the four most important cities of Lithuania. The reverse side of the medal bears the dates "1917-1919", with crossed rifle and sword, surrounded by oak and laurel branches. [For the rest of this article and a complete copy of this issue, write us at the address below. Please enclose \$2.00 to help with costs]

Continued on page 4...

THE KNIGHT, Volume 8, Number 1, Issue No. 43. The official publication of the Lithuanian Numismatic Association. Frank Passic, Albion, Michigan EDITOR. Robert J. Douchis, Columbia, MD, DIRECTOR. Subscription/membership to Volume 8: A donation of \$10 or more for 6 bi-monthly issues. write: LNA, P.O. Box 612, Columbia, Maryland, 21045. Editor's address: Frank Passic, 900 S. Eaton St., Albion, Michigan 49224. The LNA is a member of the American Numismatic Association C-117903.

Pages 1 & 2 of this issue are produced in quantity and distributed at the Baltimore ANA Convention. Regular issue is 8 pages.

We accept advertising: Full page, \$35; 1/2 page \$25; 1/4 page \$15. business card insertion \$5, or 6 for \$25 (save \$5). Dealers: List your Lithuanian and Baltic material here in The Knight!

Jonas Mikas (1881-1944) designer of Lithuania's last state decoration, the 1940 Soldier's



## 100 LITU BANKNOTE, 1922 P-20

3.

100 Litu

P-20

Date: November (Lapkr.)

22, 1922

Designer: Adomas Varnas

Size: 170 x 87 mm.

Colors: Green, blue

Serial letter: A only

Printer: A. Haase, Prague, Czechoslovakia

Specimens: low serial numbered, with "Pavyzdys-bevertis" red diagonal overprint.

This month we are featuring a very special item that you don't see very often! It is the highest denomination note of the 1922 "permanent" series printed in Prague by the firm of A. Haase, and designed by Lithuanian artist Adomas Varnas (1879-1979): the rare 100 Litu banknote.

A 100 Litu note had the equivalent of a U.S. \$10 bill at the time of issuance. Contained on the note are the signatures of the officials of the newly organized Bank of Lithuania: V. Jurgutis (president), A. Prūsas, P. Grajauskas, J. Paknys, and Julius Kaupas.

**OBVERSE:** The text translates, "Bank of Lithuania, One Hundred Litas", Kaunas, November 16, 1922. One Litas Has 0.150462 Grams of Pure Gold." The left design centers around the Vytis (knight) emblem, within a shield-like decoration. The serial number appears twice: bottom-left, and upper right.

The right design honors Lithuania's greatest patriarch, Vytautas the Great. Under Vytautas, Lithuania reached her zenith in the 15th century, stretching from the Baltic to the Black Seas. In the far right corner one finds the so-called "Vytautas' Symbol," a 20th century fabrication based upon the ancient spearhead and cross emblem used on some coins minted by Vytautas. The remembrance of Vytautas is



central in Lithuanian history, and his portrait fittingly appears on the highest denomination note of this series.

**REVERSE:** The reverse symmetrically depicts a Lithuanian maiden, wearing a necklace of amber, the beautiful gem stone of Lithuania. Found on the shores of the Baltic Sea, amber was used as money in ancient times, and has become part of the Lithuanian heritage. Now used in jewelry and for symbolic purposes, 90% of the world's supply of amber comes from the Baltic Sea region. Amber, the fossilized resin of ancient pine trees, has the special characteristic of burning and giving off a pleasant pine fragrance. Varnas' amber necklace captures an important part of the Lithuanian heritage.

Although this note is dated November 22, 1922, it actually was designed in Prague and printed around November-December 1923, as the last in the series. Lower denomination notes were printed earlier.

**TRENDS:** This is one of the most expensive Lithuanian banknotes, and one of the hardest to obtain. The Pick book lists the following trends: Very Good, \$300. Very Fine, \$550. Uncirculated, \$1,000.



The ribbon has three perpendicular stripes of equal width of green, white, and red. Crosswise on the ribbon is an enameled plaque pin, 5 mm. wide, with the inscription "1917-1919," with the letter "F" for "Lithuanian," (first) in its center.

The first Soldier's Medal is to be awarded to the soldiers who served during the years 1917-1919 in actual military or chaplain service in the Lithuanian battalions at Smolensk, Vitebsk, Rovno, Siberia, the Lithuanian Cavalry Division, the 226th Military Field hospital in Ungenai, members of the Lithuanian military associations of the Central Committee in St. Petersburg, the western and southwestern Romanian Front Committee, any military counter parts which espoused the ideas of Lithuanian independence, and all others who up to February 16, 1918, actively supported the organization of the nation's army and thereby contributed to the resurrection of Lithuanian independence.

Determination of individuals to be awarded this medal is assigned to a committee of 5 persons to be appointed by the Minister of Defense. This award is to be presented by the Minister of Defense in the name of the President of the Republic with an appropriate certificate. The Minister of Defense is charged with the procurement of the medal, awarding and furnishing of the awarding records to the Chancellery of Orders, Medals, and Decorations.

Individuals who were stripped of their rights according to the penal statutes or deserted from the army are not eligible to receive this medal. Once confirmed, the medal can only be revoked by a decree of the court or by the Minister of Defense if determined to have been awarded based on falsified documentation. Recipients over 60 years of age are entitled to 50 yearly pension payments of 100 litas' each, and other rights and privileges prescribed by government statutes."

The three medals known to exist today do conform to the description set forth in the above government regulations. They were made in an unknown quantity by the Hugenin Brothers in Le Locle, Switzerland, which produced the bulk of the official Lithuanian government medals and decorations.

The known medals are made of bronze, and have a silver wash finish, with its ribbon hanging from a straight silvered clasp. The medal is 30 mm. in diameter. The obverse features a Lithuanian maiden in native dress with a sword in her right hand, while calling forth her nation's soldiers. Behind her in a cross design appears a marching column of armed Lithuanian uniformed soldiers, following a Vytis flag bearer. In the four corners of the cross

appears Lithuanian landmarks from the four most important cities: NW--Klaipėda light house; NE--Vilnius' Hill of Gediminas; SE--Kaunas City Hall; SW--Šiauliai church.

Located between the maiden's bare feet is the sculptor's last name, "Žikaras," and the manufacturer's name, "Sc Hugenin Rec." Around the perimeter is the legend "UZ LIETUVOS LAISVĖ (top)," and "KARIUOMENĖS PIRMIŲ (bottom)," meaning, "For Lithuanian freedom, first Soldiers."

The reverse of the medal bears the inscription dates "1917-1919," over an honor wreath containing oak branches, and acorns. The design also contains a crossed Russian dragoon sword and a Nagant infantry rifle. At the 6 o'clock position again appears the designer's name and the manufacturers name.

The government regulations prescribed a ribbon of green, white and red, with a "1917-1919" cross bar. However, the three known medals in existence bear a tri-color ribbon of blue, white, and red. It should be noted that the green-white-red ribbon was already in military use on the Klaipėda Liberation Medal, awarded by the Lithuanian National Guard.

It is the author's opinion that since the prescribed ribbon was already in use, there was a substitution, and was not reported due to the Soviet invasion. The substituted colors of blue, white and red are appropriate as these were the colors used in the Imperial Czarist Russian flag under which the soldiers first fought. It is noted that the Hugenin Brothers firm in Switzerland supplied the medals to the Lithuanian government with the ribbons already attached and the specimen in that firm's collection utilizes the blue-white-red color combination. The existence of the Hugenin Freres museum specimen indicates these colors are genuine and the colored ribbon supplied to the Lithuanian government was as such.

Unfortunately, due to the very few medals known to exist, it is not possible to determine if these are trial specimen pieces, or actual survivors of an unissued supply of medals destroyed by the Soviet occupational regime.

It is interesting to note that the sculptor, Juozas Žikaras, designed his plaster model for this medal sometime in 1923, but unfortunately it was not adopted by the Lithuanian government until some 17 years later! Lithuanian military veterans have indicated that there was a matter of great controversy surrounding the issuance of this medal, for it was seen as a rival to the Founding Volunteers Medal (Savanorių), whose members had established a Veterans organization similar to the American Legion or VFW. This military organization did not support the issuance of this new medal, as it established a special or separate class among its membership.

The full history of this medal may never be known, and possibly lost forever, in the wake of the 1940 Soviet invasion. Yet, the first Lithuanian Soldier's Medal does exist today in memory of the first modern day Lithuanian soldiers to take up arms for their country, and is the very last decoration medal of the Republic of Lithuania.


[You read about it FIRST in The Knight!]



## COIN WORLD FEATURES LITHUANIA

The May 29, 1985 issue of Coin World focused on Lithuania in it's international section, beginning on page 33. The main feature was an article by Richard Giedroyc (Giedraitis) entitled, "Barter Coinage Reflects Cultural Development," which dealt with the early primitive Lithuanian monies.

On page 36 was a "Cointrek" feature on modern 20th century Lithuanian coins, which gave mintages, sizes, weights, and brief descriptions of the 14 circulation coins.

The author mentioned a "columna" emblem, which appears printed with a Polish ending, instead of a more correct plural "columns" of Gediminas. He also stated that that emblem  was borrowed by the Lithuanians and it originally was used by an aristocratic family in Italy in the 5th century AD! The author also states that the Lithuanian S.S.R. has a vote in the United Nations, which is not true. (It is the Ukrainian S.S.R.)

Copies and information about the articles (issue costs \$1.25 each) may be obtained by writing: Coin World, P.O. Box 150, Sidney, Ohio 45367.

## NEWS

More information on the tearing out pages of the Standard Catalog of World Coins Baltic regions section appeared in the July issue of The Numismatist, page 1309: "Soviet numismatic author Igor Victorov Chelyabinsk, USSR, recently reported that Russian customs officials cut out pages 151-54, covering coinage of the Baltic states, from his mailed copy of the SCWC."

The deletion suggests Soviet disapproval about western recollections of once-independent Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania now under Communist rule, no doubt aggravated by the free world's refusal to recognize the Soviet absorption of the Baltic region, as well as the catalog's description of the "former free state of Estonia."

## OBITUARIES

5.

Joe Adomaitis of Wallingford, CT, longtime LNA member and writer in The Knight, died April 26 1985 after a long battle with cancer. Joe's article, "Grading the 1936 5 Litai," appeared in the December-January 1980-81, and February-March 1981 issues of The Knight. The February-March 1980 issue also carried his thoughts on grading Lithuanian coins.

Joe was our special speaker at our June 1, 1980 LNA meeting at the Chicago International Coin Fair, and he spoke on grading Lithuanian coins.

During that same time, Joe helped us with cataloging part of the numismatic collection at the Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture in Chicago. At that time, we loaned to him two rolls (100 coins) of the 1936 5 Litai (Basanavičius) coins. He studied these for a few months, and his grading results were published here in The Knight.

A graduate of the University of Wisconsin (Madison), Joe was young and had a promising banking future ahead of him. We enjoyed his presence in Chicago, where we got to know him. He enjoyed Lithuanian numismatics, and prided himself on his uncirculated modern coin set. It was from him that this editor obtained a blank, unstruck 1936-38 10 litų planchet, in trade for some other Lithuanian coins.

Joe continued to keep in contact with the LNA, but his letters became spaced farther apart in recent months, as he mentioned his battle with cancer. He is survived by his wife, Miriam, and his parents. Our LNA has lost one of our special members, and we will miss him.



ABOVE: Joe Adomaitis (far right) works at the Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture in 1980, along with Agnes and Vince Alones, and Frank Passic.

LNA charter member Joe Lepczyk is dead at the age of 44. Joe was one of our early supporters from our beginning in 1978, and helped us in contacting numerous Lithuanian collectors via his auction firm. He frequently notified us as to any new Lithuanian items available, and his auction firm handled numerous Lithuanian rarities. Lepczyk's auction firm handled the sale of non-Lithuanian numismatic auction catalogs/books which were part of the Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture collection, a few years ago.

Joe died June 11 in Lansing, Michigan, at St. Lawrence Hospital. The details of his death were graphically reported in the June 25, 1985 issue of World Coin News, page 7.



Joseph L. Lepczyk



# 6. THE VYTAUTAS THE GREAT MUSEUM

## Introduction

As part of our Lithuanian numismatic classics translation series into the English language, we are happy to begin here in serial form, the report entitled, "An Accounting of the work of the Vytautas the Great Museum of Culture November 1, 1936 to December 31, 1939, the Historical Section," (Vytauto Didžiojo kultūros muziejaus 1936. XI. 1-1939. XII. 31. darbų apyskaita) by V. Kuprevičius. This appeared in the 1941 book, Vytautas the Great Cultural Museum Annual 1 (Vytauto Didžiojo kultūros muziejaus metraštis I), which was published in war-torn Lithuania, shortly after the Lithuanians drove the Russians out of Lithuania and the Germans came in, in 1941. For a brief 6 week period in 1941, Lithuanian cultural and historical studies were allowed to flourish, until the Germans stopped it. It is assumed that this Annual was issued sometime during July, 1941. In this same Annual is the numismatic



ABOVE: The Vytautas the Great Cultural Museum in Independent Lithuania. The Soviets turned it into the State Museum of History.

classic by Povilas Karazija, "The Coin Hoards of Aluona-Sklėriai, and Krūminiai, Lithuania," which we had translated into English and published by the LNA in 1983.

The Vytautas the Great Museum was opened in 1936, and housed several formerly separate museums: the Ciurlionis Art Gallery, the Museum of War, and the Museum of Culture.

The head of the historical (including numismatics) section was none other than Dr. Alexander A. Račkus (1895-1965) from 1936 to 1939. Račkus served as the official medical doctor for the U.S. Legation (Embassy) in Lithuania. The Lithuanian government would not allow

him to practice on the Lithuanian public, only to the Americans. An ardent numismatist, Račkus amassed a very significant collection of early Lithuanian coins, which he sold to the Lithuanian government.

It is no secret that Račkus did not get along with his fellow Museum workers, whom we will read were critical of his work. Račkus resigned under pressure in 1938, and was replaced by Povilas Karazija.

Račkus returned to the U.S. at the start of the war, and continued his philatelic and numismatic collections, the bulk of which became the basis for starting the Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture in Chicago in 1965.

Račkus was a full Lithuanian patriot and promoted Lithuania and Lithuanians (and even some who weren't...) all he could. It was Račkus who promoted the medals of Lithuanian medalist Petras Rimša, and was active in the Chicago Coin Club and the ANA. He wrote several articles for The Numismatist in the 1930's.

The account we will be featuring in installments focuses in part upon Dr. Račkus and his handling of the numismatic collection. Later on, the discussion turns to inventories, and sources of material. Many of these coins today are still in Communist hands at the Kaunas Museum--originally from Dr. Račkus' collection!

In fairness to Dr. Račkus, we will also print some excerpts from his pseudo-scholarly book, Cyclopedia of Lithuanian Numismatics, in which Račkus gives his opinions on his fellow Kaunas museum workers.

In addition, we will also be reprinting a story about Račkus' successor, Povilas Karazija, concerning World War II and his encounter with the Gestapo concerning Museum artifacts. This was originally published in 1955, and translated and printed in English by the LNA in 1983 as part of the "Coin Hoards..." book, which only 10 LNA members ordered/received.

The text of our feature begins (following page) starting on page 344 of the original 1941 book.



# THE HISTORICAL SECTION, BY V. KUPREVICIUS

7.

1936. Work in the historical section began with the reception from the former National Archives Commission of various museum pieces (reaching in number 7080 pieces) and also from the Ministry of Education the so-called Historical Museum of Dr. Alexander M. Račkus. With the receipt of this larger group of items at the same time, it became necessary to begin organizing them with all possible speed: to inventory all pieces scientifically, and to restore and preserve those rusted, torn, and damaged. For this task we required several personnel, well-schooled in museum work, although

Museum's leadership in the Historical Section organizing efforts caused disputes between the Museum's Director and the Section Director, and this adversely affected the work itself. The Ministry of Education, which knew of all this, failed to show a desire to eliminate this abnormality in one way or another, so that Dr. Račkus was provided the opportunity to continue, entirely unconcerned with the Museum's Director...

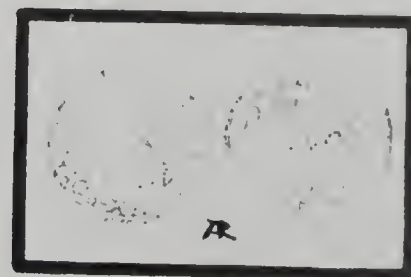
Within two months, 601 items were obtained, for which the Museum paid 920 Litas'. Donations were received from three persons: 38 various items.

RIGHT: Inventory card prepared by Dr. A.M. Račkus at the Vytautas the Great Museum. Each card contains a pencil rubbing of the coin, and a description below. The card is an envelope in which the coin was placed. Dr. Račkus was able to bring these cards back to America; they are now at the Balzekas Museum, although the coins remained in Lithuania.



DR. ALEXANDER M. RAČKUS (1893-1965)  
1935 photograph

the staff available in the Historical Section for this consisted of only two persons: The Section Director (Dr. A.M. Račkus was appointed), and a museum employee (K. Paunksnis was appointed). The appointee on November 1, 1936, Dr. A.M. Račkus, in the conviction of the Museum Directorate, failed to show the ability of organizing the Historical Section properly, so that from the very beginning, the work progressed improperly. Instead of ordering a scientific inventory of available museum's property, Dr. A.M. Račkus burdened the museum's employee with copying (card indexing) of the less important pieces, while more important articles lay untouched. So the Historical Section, thus misdirected, became a mere warehouse of museum items. The frequent interference of the



ZYGMANTAS AUGUSTAS

1566 M.  
LIETUVOS PROTĖSTO TREČIOKAS.

RUOŠĖ KARALIUS "LIEVĖLSKĄ UNIJĄ".  
LIETUVA NUKALĖ *keista pinigą*  
*su keistu lotynišku užrašu:*  
QVI HABITAT IN COELIS  
IRRIDEBIT EOS A, *kas reiškia*  
"KURS YRA DANGUOSE PAŠIEPIA  
JUOS"... *Pyko Karalius už tai,*  
*-pyko ir lenkai... Tą pinigą*  
*užsėpė alskino. Jie tą pinigą*  
*naikino... tik užsienin (pa-*  
*teko išlikti. J. DR. RAČKUS*

1937. In this year, most of the time was spent separating museum items proper to the Historical Section, and transferring to other Sections of the Museum or to other authorities those items unsuitable to the function of the Historical Section. So, with the approval of the Ministry of Education, from the collection of the Historical Section, registered in certain volumes, there were transferred (all from the collection of Dr. Račkus): 1) To the Mineralogy/Christology cases of the Vytautas the Great University, a mineral collection consisting of 317 items; 2) To the Zoological case of VGU, a collection of mollusks, butterflies, insects, corals, vertebrates, and other biologicals, 989 items; 3) To the Geological case of VGU, paleontological, petrographical and other geology collections, totalling 2477 items; 4) To the ethnographic Section, VGU, various specimens, 124 items.

Concurrent with this transfer the inventorying of items was continued. Particular attention was paid to the collections of Lithuanian numismatics. During 1937, 661 numismatic items were inventoried, with special prints made of each item, which in turn were pasted into the numismatic inventory book.

Continued next page...



## 8. ADS

WANTED: 5 Kopec "OST" iron coins (both mints) in AU or better, also revenue stamps and view post cards of Lithuania and Klaipėda/Memel. J.R. Greene, 33 Bearsden Road, Atmol, Mass. 01331.

FOR SALE: we have (my husband and I) two Lithuanian coins, a 1936 10 Litu in AU, and a 1938 10 Litu in UNC. we would like to sell these coins. Is there perhaps someone in your club who would be interested? Aida Farmer, 4 East Noyes, Arlington Heights, IL 60005.

WANTED: The only coin I have from Lithuania is a 1936 1 centas. I would like someday to have a complete set. Can you send me a price list? Joseph R. Lanning, Jr. 649 Angele, Arabi, LA 70032.

FOR SALE: Custom-made Lithuanian Coin Holders (Capital Plastic) for 14 coin circulation set. Each holder contains date, denomination, and an attractive map of Lithuania and the Vytis emblem. \$22 each (blue). Complete 14-coin set in holder \$275 (avg. circ) Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture, 4012 Archer Ave, Chicago, Ill 60632. Ask for a copy of our latest Museum Review for our numismatic price list and Gift Shop items.

Want/For Sale items are FREE to LNA members. List your Lithuanian/Baltic material here!

## NEWS

Your editor has written a book just published by the Albion (Michigan) Historical Society, entitled, Albion's Banks and Bankers. 85 pages long, it has nothing to do with Lithuanian numismatics, although the author's Lithuanian credentials are mentioned in "About the author." The book is heavily numismatic, and contains over 50 illustrations of tokens, advertisements, photographs, banknotes, scrip, etc. of Albion. The book is filled with incredible stories about Albion's banking history, from the suicide of the cashier of the National Exchange Bank in 1876 (... "the bullet had entered the side of the head, making a terrible wound, from which blood and brains were oozing...") to the incredible Albion National Bank failure of 1912, in which over \$325,000 was embezzled, and the cashier and his sons were sent to Leavenworth. This book was a project for our local sesquicentennial (150 years), and you will find it quite suspenseful and intriguing. Copies are \$5.00 each (money going back to the Albion Civic Foundation, which funded the project), plus \$1.25 postage to: Albion Historical Society, 509 S. Superior St., Albion, Michigan 49224. The author also has a few rejected copies (last page slightly crinkled) he can personally sell for \$4.00 (address on pg. 2) plus postage. Mention if you want the book autographed.

Issue No. 17 (1984) of the Naudoji Viltis politikos ir kulturos žurnalas, published in Chicago, featured a special article on pp. 76-78 about Lithuanian military orders and decorations. Written by Antanas Diržys, the author has used several photographs, taken from The Knight, in our previous articles! He mentions the LNA on p. 84-86, and gives us credit for the illustrations on p. 88. Issues of The Knight were provided Diržys by Al Ruzgas, LNA member from New York.

The 71st Lithuanian Day will be held Sunday August 18, 1985 at a new location this time, at Moosic, Pennsylvania, at Rocky Glen Park, off Route 502 (Take exit 50 off I-81), east of Wilkes-Barre. For more information write: Lithuanian Day Committee, Box 192, Ringtown, PA 17967 (717) 889-3839. They can send you a brochure giving details and directions. A very enjoyable time!

The Annual Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture picnic will be held Sunday July 28 at the summer "cottage" in New Buffalo, Michigan right on Lake Michigan. Activities start at noon, including a presentation on Lithuanian paper money, by this editor. Great time, lots of food, swimming, contests, programs, etc. Write or call the Museum for further details and directions. (312) 847-2441.

## MEDAL

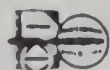
Continued from pg. 7...

371 items were purchased for 353 Litas' and 53 cents, and 1934 items were donated. There were several valuable items among the donations, but the majority of them are duplicates (coins and prewar Russian banknotes), or well worn.

Among the major projects completed since the installation, worthy of mention are: 1) Made according to Dr. AL. Račkus plan and blueprints and under his direction, the workshop "Metalas" completed 14 iron showcases, adapted to exhibit numismatic items; 2) Metal frames were prepared for the showcases to exhibit special numismatic items; 3) according to the instructions given by Dr. Račkus, index card boxes were prepared relating to exhibiting numismatic items (2 point minimum frames).

In addition to the regular work in the Section, the Director of the Historical Section was ordered on one occasion into the

Continued next issue...



Dealer in Quality Rare Coins  
Lithuanian & Polish  
WRITE:

**Karl Stephens, Inc.**

Karl Stephens  
President

Post Office Box 458  
Tempe City, Ca 91780

ANA 57209  
213 445 8154